

FROM: THE BISHOP OF EDMONTON
27 Thurlow Road, London, NW3 5PP



THE RT. REVD. PETER W. WHEATLEY
Tel: 020 7435 5890 Fax: 020 7435 6049

The Revd Fr George Guiver CR
Community of the Resurrection
Mirfield
West Yorkshire WF14 0BN

10 November 2008

Dear Father,

ST FRANCIS' HOUSE, HEMINGFORD GREY

It is kind of you to write and give such clear advance notice of the closure of St Francis' House. I can well understand the difficulty of the decision, and also of the challenges of running a retreat house. I chair the managing trustees of St Peter's Bourne here in the Area, which is much smaller than St Francis' House and it is a struggle.

As clergy and parishes in this Area we have much valued being able to use St Francis' House and I am most grateful to the Community for offering us this facility for so long.

With good wishes and prayers for the Community as it plans for the future,

Yours sincerely,

+ Peter

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The Reverend Peter Cuntliffe

St James



Hemingford Grey

158

10th November 2008

Dear Father George,

It was with a sad heart that I received your letter about the closure of St Francis House at the end of next year. We have developed such closeness with the staff at the house that they feel as much a part of the ministry of St James'.

In spite of the current financial situation, we at St James' are keen to expand our ministry and service to the local community and the church beyond. In order to facilitate this we have been looking at how best to expand and develop our facilities. These are quite severely restricted by the space occupied by our Grade I listed church and Grade II listed Parish Centre. The latter is adjacent to St Francis House.

Assuming that you do not yet have a buyer, the Churchwardens and PCC would like to consider any options for purchasing or leasing all or part of St Francis House. In particular we have dreams for a place of healing and a coffee shop. The latter project has already raised support and interest in the village, and the former has been a matter of prayer for the last two or three decades.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Serving Christ together

Vicar

Thank you for all your kindness

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1st
Wholeness Through Christ

Registered Charity No: 327055

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Date: 10.11.2008

Dear *Mary, Ann and all at St Francis House and the Community at
Merfield.*

Thank you for the wonderful care and kindness you have shown to us in Wholeness Through Christ over the years. You have all been wonderful and we are very sad to hear of the decision to close the centre in 2010. If you know of anywhere other centres that I could place the six bookings I have with you for 2010 then I would be grateful to hear of them. The trustees and leader of W.T.C. wanted me to express our gratitude to you for the way everyone at St Francis house has helped to make our courses such a blessing to so many people. We have many testimonies of those who have experienced the presence of the Lord bringing healing and comfort to them at St Francis House.

I wonder also, if it would be possible for us to be kept in touch with the sale of St Francis House as the trustees are very interested. For a while now our prayer partners have been saying that we should have a retreat centre of our own. It would be good therefore if you could let me know who I should contact to express our interest in this property.

Blessings



Malcolm Field

Administrator



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF
ST EDMUNDSBURY
AND IPSWICH

**The Bishop of
St Edmundsbury and Ipswich**
The Right Reverend Nigel Stock

Fr George Guiver CR
Superior
Community of the Resurrection
Mirfield
West Yorkshire
WF14 0BN

12 November 2008

Dear Father

St Francis House, Hemingford Grey

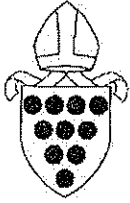
Thank you for your letter in which you give me warning of the need for the Community to close and sell St Francis Retreat House. I can't pretend that we are not deeply saddened in this diocese. As you are probably aware this is the second Retreat House in the area to close recently. We will certainly miss it as it was very much appreciated for Ordination Retreats.

However, as someone who when I was in the diocese of Chester, enormously valued the time I was able to spend at Mirfield, I really do hope that selling Hemingford Grey will secure your position. I know hard decisions have to be made from time to time. I am grateful for the forewarning.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely

+ Nigel Stock Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

The Rt Revd Dr John Inge
THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER

The Superior
Community of the Resurrection
MIRFIELD
West Yorkshire WF14 0BN

12 November 2008

Dear George,

Thank you for your letter of 7 November: how kind of you to think of being in touch with me about St Francis' House.

You are right in thinking that I had a particular affection for St Francis' House when I was Bishop of Huntingdon. This was not only because of the valuable service it offered to the Diocese and beyond but also because it gave me a taste of Mirfield close to home! However, I am not at all surprised that you are having to close the House and, frankly, feel that the community has done very well to keep it going for as long as it has. Times are not easy for retreat houses, as I have discovered here with our wonderful Holland House, and inevitably there will be other pressures on the resources of the Community. I do hope that all will go well with your plans and that the housing market will have improved by the time you come to sell. Thank you, to you and the Community, for all that you have given to me and countless others through St Francis House over many years. May God bless the you in as you seek to follow God's direction for your future witness and ministry.

We thrive in Worcester. This letter brings with it warmest good wishes to you and all the Community.

Yours,

John
D. John Inge



THE DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH

The Bishop of Peterborough, The Rt. Revd. Ian P. M. Cundy, M.A.

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Fr George Guiver CR
Community of the Resurrection
Mirfield
West Yorkshire
WF14 0BN

13 November 2008

Dear George

St Francis' House, Hemingford Grey

I was very sorry to hear that you will be closing St Francis' Retreat House at the end of 2009. We have used it for a number of ordination retreats and groups from the Diocese also used it on other occasions and will miss the welcome we have received and the peace that people have found there.

Having been through a similar process a few years ago in relation to Ecton House, I can fully appreciate the dilemma in which you found yourselves. Unfortunately, the costs of maintaining retreat houses run ahead of inflation, particularly when they are housed in old buildings, and peoples expectations also continue to rise. While we were sorry to see Ecton House close I still think it was the right decision even though it was a painful one to take. You, therefore, have my sympathy in the difficult decision which you have before you.

With very best wishes.

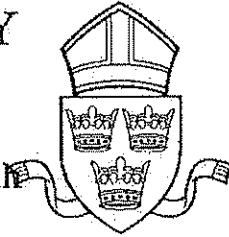
Yours sincerely

+ Ian

Bishop of Peterborough



DIOCESE OF ELY



19 November 2008/mh

Hemingford Grey

From the Bishop of Ely

The Right Reverend Anthony Russell D.Phil. FRAGS
The Bishop's House
Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 4DW

Tel: (01353) 662749 Fax: (01353) 669477
Email: bishop@ely.anglican.org

Dear George

Thank you for your letter of the 4th November and I am very sad to hear that the Community will be finally withdrawing from St Francis House, Hemingford Grey at the end of next year.

It is very sad that this is necessary though I can well appreciate that it is difficult to staff such houses and there comes a time when such decisions are necessary.

Thank you for all the Community have contributed to this Diocese by their presence there.

I have stayed at the house on a number of occasions in past years and I am personally very sorry that it is now necessary to close.

Having come from the Oxford Diocese, which had many Communities (though sadly is losing Burford). It is strange that, now the Franciscans have left central Cambridge, there are no Communities in this Diocese at all. I had hoped to persuade Stuart Burns that a house on the Fens was what he was called to but he didn't seem to think that would be right.

With my prayers and all good

Dr. Anthony Russell

wishes.

Fr George Guiver CR
Superior
Community of the Resurrection
Mirfield
West Yorkshire
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Jan. + Anthony